

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

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R 301458Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, APER, US, SY, EAD

SUBJ: SARG REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

REF: A. STATE 15567 B. DAMASCUS 250 C. DAMASCUS 229

1. AMBASSADOR MET AGAIN WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NAHLAWI JAN 21 TO DELIVER EMBASSY'S REPLY TO MINISTRY NOTE REQUESTING NAMES OF ALL USAID PERSONNEL ON CURRENT DIPLOMATIC LIST. NAHLAWI SAID SARG COULD NOT PERMIT INCLUSION USAID PERSONNEL ON NEW DIPLOMATIC LIST AS THIS WOULD CREATE UNTENABLE PRECEDENT WITH REGARD TO SIMILAR PERSONNEL FROM OTHER NATIONS. AMBASSADOR MADE TWO POINTS IN REPLY:

(1) HE STATED THAT AID REP RAMSEY SHOULD BE ON LIST AS WERE OTHER NATION'S PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVES. EMBASSY SENT NOTE FOLLOWING DAY CONFIRMING RAMSEY DIPLOMATIC STATUS. (2) HE INSISTED THAT USAID PERSONNEL BE ACCORDED SATISFACTORY STATUS AND ID CARDS PENDING CONCLUSION OF NEW AID BILATERAL AGREEMENT. NAHLAWI AGREED SATISFACTORY INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT AND SUGGESTED WE ASK MINISTRY OF PLANNING TO SEND HIM LETTER REQUESTING APPROPRIATE INTERIM STATUS BE ACCORDED AID EMPLOYEES. AID REP PASSED THIS ON TO DEPMIN PLANNING HILOU WHO SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE NAHLAWI.

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2. ON ASSISTANT ATTACHE TITLES, NAHLAWI PROVIDED SOME CLARIFICATION TO MINISTRY NOTE (REF B). HE SAID WHAT WAS OBJECTED TO WAS NON-SPECIFIED ASSISTANT ATTACHES; ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE OR ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SARG.

3. SINCE REMOVAL OF FOUR AID PERSONNEL FROM DIPLOMATIC LIST BRINGS US DOWN TO 23 TOTAL, ONLY ONE OVER SARG SPECIFIED LIMIT OF 22 (REF C), WE PROPOSE FOR DEPT APPROVAL THAT WE TRY TO ACCREDIT PRESENT ASSISTANT ATTACHES WITH FOLLOWING MIX OF TITLES WHICH MAY PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO SARG:

(A) FSSO-6 BARBER (AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY) AND FSS-07 MILLER (C&R) AS ATTACHES. BARBER IS HIGHEST RANKING OF CURRENT ASSISTANT ATTACHES AND ALSO HAS DIRECT DEALINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. MILLER NEEDS DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO MEET COURIERS AND CLEAR POUCHES AT AIRPORT. REQUEST DEPT APPROVE THESE TWO FOR DURATION THEIR PRESENT ASSIGNMENT ONLY.

(B) FSSO-7 SATCHER AND PUHEK AS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHES.

(C) FSSO-7 DORSEY (ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION SECRETARY) AS ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE.

4. REASON FOR DIVIDING (B) AND (C) ABOVE IS THAT WE BELIEVE SARG WILL BE MOST DUBIOUS ABOUT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHE TITLE. WE WISH, THEREFORE, TO LIMIT THAT CATEGORY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. DORSEY, MOREOVER, ALREADY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME ASPECTS OF EMBASSY COMMERCIAL WORK, SO ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TITLE FOR HER WOULD BE BOTH APPLICABLE AND UNDERSTOOD IN LOCAL CONTEXT.

5. REQUEST DEPT REPLY ASAP.
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Message Attributes

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